

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01255 281743Z

63

ACTION EUR-25

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 ACDA-19

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

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SUBJECT: VIEWS OF JEAN REY ON CURRENT EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC
SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. FORMER EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JEAN REY, IN A

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01255 281743Z

FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE OF THE FEBRUARY 24-25 "LE SOIR" (INDEPENDENT,

LARGE CIRCULATION DAILY), GIVES HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT MALAISE AFFLICTING ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN RELATIONS. REY, WHO IN THE PAST HAS SOMETIMES BEEN CHARITABLE TOWARDS DE GAULLE AND COUVE DE MURVILLE, NOW BLAMES JOBERT SQUARELY FOR THE FAILURE OF THE EC-9 TO CONSTRUCT A UNITED EUROPE. HE ALSO SAYS SECRETARY KISSINGER NEITHER LIKES EUROPEANS NOR UNDERSTANDS THEIR COMMUNITY, FOCUSING HIS SYMPATHY AND ATTENTION INSTEAD ON NATO AND US LEADERSHIP. HIGHLIGHTS OF REY'S ARTICLE ARE PARAPHRASED BELOW; A FULL TRANSLATION WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BASIC QUESTION IS WHETHER JOBERT IS RIGHT IN REPRESENTING THE WASHINGTON DEBATE IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: FRANCE DEFENDING A EUROPEAN AND INDEPENDENT EUROPE, AND THE OTHER EIGHT FAVORING AN ATLANTIC EUROPE MORE OR LESS THE VASSAL OF THE US.

3. WITH RESPECT TO US MOTIVES, THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE WAS CALLED LESS WITH A VIEW TO ORGANIZING COMMON ACTION THAN TO ASSERTING US LEADERSHIP. NEITHER AS A PROFESSOR NOR AS SECRETARY OF STATE HAS KISSINGER SHOWN ANY LOVE FOR THE EUROPEANS. UNLIKE MANY OTHER AMERICAN LEADERS, HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITY AND CONSIDERS IT A FOREIGN BODY WITHIN NATO. KISSINGER IS INTERESTED ONLY IN NATO AND IN US LEADERSHIP THERE. UNFORTUNATELY, ONE CANNOT COUNT ON HIM TO HELP THE EUROPEANS BUILD THEIR CONTINENT.

4. BUT WHY DID JOBERT GO TO WASHINGTON WITH SUCH AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS TOWARD THE EIGHT AND THE US? IT APPEARS THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE AIMED NOT AT HELPING EUROPE BUT AT BOOSTING POMPIDOU'S STOCK WITH HIS MOST ORTHODOX SUPPORTERS AND WITH CHAUVINISTIC PUBLIC OPINION.

5. FRANCE IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDEPENDENCE OF EUROPE, WITNESS THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL EC MEMBERS IN THE MANY COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ALL OF WHICH SERVE THE CAUSE OF EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, HOWEVER, INDEPENDENCE HAS ITS LIMITS. THE EUROPEANS, INCLUDING FRANCE, ARE ALLIES OF THE US, THEY RE-
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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 01255 281743Z

MEMBER THE ESSENTIAL AID GIVEN UNDER THE MARSHALL PLAN, AND THEY KNOW THAT THE COMMON DEFENSE RESTS ON THE MILITARY POWER OF THE US.

6. THEREFORE, THE EIGHT CANNOT FOLLOW FRANCE'S LEAD IN TREATING THE US AS AN ENEMY AND PRETENDING THAT COOPERATION CANNOT EXIST. NO ONE COUNTRY OF THE C CAN BE SOLE JUDGE OF WHAT THE EC SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT DO OR "GIVE TO

ITS PARTNERS THE CHOICE BETWEEN SUBMISSION TO THE ARGUMENTS OF PARIS OR DISSIDENCE".

7. IT IS BOTH CONTRADICTORY AND DANGEROUS TO DEMAND THE INDEPENDENCE OF EUROPE ON THE ONE HAND BUT TO REFUSE IT THE MEANS ON THE OTHER. FRANCE WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY THE OTHERS IF SHE WORKED IN BRUSSELS TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY. DESPITE FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE YEARS, IT WAS FRANCE THAT TORPEDOED THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY, BLOCKED EC NUCLEAR POLICY, AND OPPOSED THE STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS, ALL OF WHICH WOULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE.

8. "THE INDEPENDENCE OF EUROPE, TO BE UPHELD IN WASHINGTON, MUST BE BUILT IN BRUSSELS, AND, RATHER THAN GIVING LESSONS TO HIS PARTNERS, HE (JOBERT) WOULD DO BETTER TO SET AN EXAMPLE. IN THAT CASE, HE WOULD BE FOLLOWED."
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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